

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are 1-17. Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

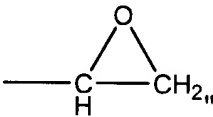
The specification at page 7 was amended to include the bonds in the epoxy group.

It is noted on Form PTO-1449 that U.S. Serial No. 09/263,426 was crossed out and indicated to not be a publication. While a pending U.S. application may not be a publication, applications can be provided and considered in an information disclosure statement (37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(1)).

35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP940459 in view of DE19826715. Enclosed is an English language translation of DE19826715. Also, previously submitted was a copy of U.S. Serial No. 09/263,426, which is the English language equivalent of EP940459, both of which claim priority to DE19809643. References herein will be to the English language copies.

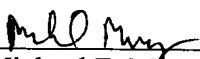
Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the at least one functional group that is able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions with a hydroxyl group and/or a thiol group is "at least one of -C(O)-O-C(O)-; -NCO; -NH-C(O)-OR; -CH₂-OH; -CH₂-O-CH₃; -NH-C(O)-CH(-C(O)OR)₂;

-NH-C(O)-CH(-C(O)OR)(-C(O)-R); -NH-C(O)-NR₂; =Si(OR)₂; and  (the recited functional groups). Support for this amendment can be found in the table on page 7.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in EP940459 or DE19826715 of providing the functionalized alkane and the at least one constituent that has the at least two functional groups that serve for crosslinking with actinic radiation and at least one functional group that contains at least one of the recited groups. While urethane (meth)acrylates can be used as one constituent, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the urethane (meth)acrylates contain any of the recited functional groups that can react with the hydroxyl groups and/or thiol groups on the functionalized alkane (Translation of DE19826715, page 6, paragraph 2). The only functional groups that are disclosed that can be on the constituent that reacts with the functionalized alkane are carboxylic acid groups (09/263,426, page 7, lines 27-29). There is no disclosure or suggestion of including at least one of the recited functional groups alone or in combination with any functional group that can undergo thermal crosslinking reactions with a hydroxyl group and/or a thiol group. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 are patentable over EP940459 in view of DE19826715.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §103 rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-17. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,


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